

White Paper on "Potassium Sorbate"

General comment:

- A> Page 11 was missing from the copy sent to us.
- B> I have checked the more recent literature (1989 to 1992) in our on-line databases and added new information below.
- C> It could be considered to mention in the ABSTRACT the inconclusive but positive results obtained with clastogenicity endpoints in some studies.

Specific comments:

- 1> When the amount of potassium sorbate (PS) in a cigarette was calculated (page 3) from the about 0.3 pounds per thousand pounds of tobacco, the resulting figure is also an approximation. I recommend to state approx. 0.2 mg instead of 0.23 mg in the Abstract and on page 3.
- 2> As in the abstracts of other White Papers it should be mentioned that these statements refer to mutagenicity as a biological activity, e.g., In vitro mutagenicity studies comparing ... not affect the biological activity or alternatively: Research comparing ... not affect the in vitro mutagenicity.
- 3> A somewhat lower oral LD50 for rats and the oral LD50 for mice has been published:

Oral rat LD50: 4.3 g/kg  
Oral mouse LD50: 3.8 g/kg

Ref.:

Annual Report of Tokyo Metropolitan Research Laboratory of Public Health. Tokyo-toritsu Eisei Kenkyusho, 24-1, 3-chome, Hyakunin-cho, Shin-juku-ku, Tokyo 160, Japan V.1- 1949/50-, 27,159,76

- 4> Possibly, the word cells after cancer has been lost.
- 4a> The chapter headline could be extended to Genotoxicity and **Mutagenicity** as recommended by the lawyer's format, because also several studies on genotoxicity are reviewed in some detail here.
- 5> It could be added that the EPA Genetox program 1988 judged the evidence available as inconclusive.
- 6> Replace -dioloid (misprint) by diploid.
- 7> Replace No sister chromatid exchanges by No increased frequency in sister chromatid exchanges over the control.

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